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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, whose presence and power are revealed to the heart that longs for Your guidance, to the mind that humbly seeks Your truth, and to those who are united in oneness to serve You in a great cause, we ask that this time of prayer be an authentic experience of communion with You that issues forth into an authentic unity of purpose to glorify You in all that we do today.

We seek to receive Your presence continually, to think of You consistently, and to trust You constantly. We urgently need divine wisdom for our leadership of this Nation. We have discovered that this only comes in a reliant relationship with You. Prayer enlarges our minds and hearts until they are able to be channels for the flow of Your spirit. You are Yourself the answer to our prayers.

As we move through this day, may we see each problem, perplexity, or person as an opportunity to practice Your presence and accept Your perspective and patience. We do not want to forget You, Lord, but when we do, interrupt our thoughts and bring us back to an awareness that You are waiting to bless us and to equip us to lead with vision and courage. Thus, may our work be our worship this day. In the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, yesterday I witnessed what I think was probably the best day of legislating on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Capitol that I have seen in many, many years. Beginning here in the Senate, we did complete action on the nuclear waste disposal legislation. It took a lot of effort, a lot of cooperation, and I think everybody deserves a lot of credit for the way it was handled.

Also, I want to commend the chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Committee and his ranking member. I think they put in an Olympic performance. Even though the hurdles were movable at times, they continued to persist and were able to complete the transportation appropriations bill, and we appreciate the chairman's efforts on that; also on a whole variety of conferences. Conferences were literally meeting all over the Capitol yesterday, on MilCon appropriations, on health insurance reform, small business relief package, minimum wage, on safe drinking water, on the terrorism task force. Everybody was working hard, and I really was very impressed with the effort that everybody put into the day yesterday. I hope we can replicate that again today.

This morning the Senate will immediately turn to the consideration of the reconciliation bill conference report regarding welfare reform. That conference report will be considered under the statutory debate time limitation of 10 hours equally divided. I hope it will not take the full 10 hours. I know a lot of Senators want to be heard, and certainly they have that right in this time limit. But I hope maybe we can yield back some of that time so that we can take up conference reports. We have a couple of them that we will probably have to vote on. The D.C. appropriations conference report and military

construction conference report will probably both have to be voted on.

This conference report is not amendable. Therefore, a vote on the adoption of the report will occur on the expiration or yielding back of debate time. Following disposition of the reconciliation bill conference report, the Senate may be asked to turn to consideration of other available conference reports or appropriations bills.

After we have votes on the conference reports, it is my intention at this time to go to the HUD-VA appropriations bill. The chairman, the Senator from Missouri, Mr. BOND, and the ranking member, Ms. MIKULSKI, have been very patient and understanding; their bill has slipped so we could move other, supposedly less controversial bills, but I hope we can take up the HUD-VA appropriations bill late this afternoon or even tonight. Therefore, rollcall votes can be expected throughout today's session and probably into the night.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

Mr. FORD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, let me say to the majority leader on behalf of the Democratic leader that we intend to cooperate with him as much as we can, but I might say to the majority leader, as he understood, the Democratic leader was quite upset last night when one of the judges had an objection. That level of cooperation kind of broke open last night.

So I just want to advise the majority leader that we will be attempting to continue to help him through the day, but it received a bump last evening.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that, and I understand that we will be in very close touch with the distinguished assistant minority leader, the whip, to make sure that when votes do occur today they are in coordination with the Democratic leader's

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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